

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Denise Roberts and I am a 30 year resident of West Lake in Guilford, CT. I live at 2 Guile Road. My late husband and I bought this property with the intent of using the lake. We are direct water front and our shore was mostly clear from lilies and other plant life at the time of purchase. Some years back a nearby lake association hired a company which used chemicals to rid their dock and beach area of lilies. They did this when the plants were mature. Unfortunately, no effort was made on their part to remove the bogs that floated up. My husband and I watched as their sizable beach area went from completely unusable to completely clear. Subsequently, the floating lily bogs, dislodged from their area, were pushed by the wind to block my waterfront as well as the waterfront of the neighbors on either side of me. Now our three properties have no water access. Our property values, of course, reflect this.

I am concerned for several reasons. First, citizens should not be allowed to contract with removal companies without paying the additional cost for debris removal. That beach association now has a lovely clear dock and beach to enjoy while we on this side are land locked by approximately 200 plus feet of thick lily bogs that stretch about 25 - 30 feet into the lake. The bogs are so thick that bushes and trees are growing on them. I have been told that it is a "natural process" for lilies to die off and float up, however, this was most definitely a manmade, coordinated effort. The natural process that has been described to me happens over time from various parts of a lake. Having only one particular section of beach become crystal clear within a short period of time (while the adjacent areas just past the beach were still thick with lilies) was as a result of chemical treatment. Second, we as citizens are not given proper notification of chemical application. A small announcement in the paper can easily be missed. Flyers in the neighborhood are not readily available. Moreover, even if we are lucky enough to see a notice, giving a huge date range when chemicals "may" be applied means that we cannot feel safe swimming for as much as a month or more. Our season for enjoying the water is only about 10 weeks long so this is significant. I understand that the chemical companies are trying to allow for weather conditions and the possible need for second applications if necessary, but we are in the age of technology and I have to believe that we can do better at alerting citizens in a more timely manner. Finally, we who use the lake should be able to have a say in which chemicals are being used in treatment. I prefer not to swim in a lake where glyphosate is used. It's a known carcinogen. I recognize that the chemical companies state that such chemicals are being applied locally, but they do not understand that swimmers can inadvertently enter areas where glyphosate is being used. Due to poor notice, I have swam in waters that were freshly sprayed as have my children! Also, we have folks who eat the fish out of these waters. We have the right to know what is going into the lake, plain and simple. This is critical for the health and safety of all. We should be able to ban the use of glyphosate.

To summarize, it is my hope that you will tighten the regulations regarding attending to debris after chemical application (if debris floats up, it MUST be fully removed by the companies contracted to apply the chemicals or the citizens who were responsible for hiring those companies will be held liable), that you will bring the notification of treatment out of the dark ages and insist on consistent, transparent updates around application dates for all citizens who use the lake, and that you will make it mandatory that citizens know precisely which chemicals will be used versus our getting a list of chemicals that may be used. Lastly, I would hope that you would agree to take glyphosate off the list of chemicals approved to be use in our lake.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Denise Roberts
2 Guild Road, Guilford, CT